



NEWS

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BOARD APPROVES RIDLEY-THOMAS' REQUEST
FOR \$10,000 REWARD IN WEEKEND VANDALISM OF
ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH IN SOUTH L.A.**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a request by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to post a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of suspects responsible for vandalizing a South Los Angeles Church.

"On Sunday, members of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in South Los Angeles arrived for worship service to discover that their sanctuary and three other rooms, including a food bank and classrooms, had been vandalized and spray painted with graffiti," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas told the Board.

According to police, the intruders left no hate messages for the congregation, but spray-painted the image of male genitalia near the churches' altar. The suspects also damaged classrooms, stole a set of drums from the sanctuary, and sprayed the food bank with a fire extinguisher. No arrests have been made in this crime.

Although initial police reports concluded that the vandalism did not fit the category of a hate crime -- which usually includes some type of bias motivation against the victim -- Supervisor Ridley-Thomas also directed the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission to review the case and report back in two weeks with their assessment and recommendations.

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“We simply can not tolerate houses of worship being vandalized in our communities,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas stated, urging anyone with information to **contact the LAPD Southwest Station Detectives at (213) 485-2582.**

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